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The United States Mints at Philadelphia and Denver will go immediately on a twenty-four-hour-a-day basis to meet the unprecedented demand for coins from banks throughout the Nation, Nellie Tayloe Ross, Director of the Mint, announced today. The San Francisco Mint will adopt a sixteen-hour day.

Mrs. Ross said the new schedule was necessitated by the exhaustion of practically all stocks of coins due to the unusually heavy demand in recent months. She pointed out that never in the Mint's history had there been such a rush of orders. The Director does not regard this as a temporary situation and points out that improved business conditions and the passage of the new revenue bill are contributing greatly to the call for new coins. She expressed the hope that the present facilities of the three mints would be sufficient to meet requirements but anticipated that those facilities will be strained to the utmost to keep up with new orders, which it is expected will develop as the defense program gets under way.

During the fiscal year 1940 a total of 811,467,000 coins was delivered by the Mint to the United States Treasurer for distribution to banks, as compared with deliveries of 393,928,000, pieces during the fiscal year 1939, an increase of 106 per cent. This was the biggest year in the history of the Mint. Deliveries of coins during the fiscal year just ended exceeded the number of coins struck off by 43,374,000, which has resulted in the depletion of reserve stocks.